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LETTER DATED 19 SEPTEMBER 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the statement that I unfortunately could not deliver at the meeting of the Security Council of 19 September 1992 on the occasion of the adoption of resolution 777 (1992).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is astonished by the draft resolution before the Security Council and the recommendation to the General Assembly contained therein. The provisions of the resolution represent a grave precedent in the work of this organ and the world Organization as a whole. The decision that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly seriously threatens the principle of universality of the world Organization and its democratic character as well as its role of a guardian of the world peace and a forum for an equal cooperation among States and peoples. It has no valid political justification nor legal grounds.

The adoption of this resolution at a moment when the Geneva Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations and the European Community, is under way raises serious concerns in regard to the motive of such initiative.

The positions put forward in the draft resolution actually deny the sovereign right of the peoples of a country to preserve their own State and its international and legal personality in case of a secession of a part of a country.

Let me recall that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia clearly and precisely pledged to honour all commitments of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. While four former Yugoslav republics unilaterally proclaimed independence and seceded from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the people of Serbia and Montenegro decided, by exercising their sovereign will, to remain in Yugoslavia. Therefore, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia only sanctioned the existing realities. It protects the legitimate right of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue the international and legal personality of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On the other hand, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has in no way whatsoever tried to block the admission of former Yugoslav republics in the United Nations and in other international organizations. However, it has rightfully continued its membership in those organizations.

Yugoslavia has officially stated on a number of occasions that it had no territorial claims on any of its neighbours. We have advocated all along that all outstanding questions should be resolved through negotiations. The members of the Security Council should be well aware of that since they have been kept abreast of all the efforts and steps taken with a view to finding a political solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

It is not a coincidence that the proposals contained in the letter of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Milan Panic, addressed to the President of the Security Council on 17 August 1992, have been accepted by the participants of the London Conference as the basis and the framework for the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis.

Yugoslavia, as one of the founding members of the United Nations, has always been committed to the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations and firmly believes that the United Nations is, and has always been, the major stronghold for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Exactly for that reason, we had asked that the United Nations take an active and direct involvement in the search of the political solution.

It has taken almost a year to accept that. A lot of time has already been lost. However, the United Nations, the Secretary-General and his personal envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, have finally taken the lead in the ongoing peace efforts, along with the Presidency of the European Community, the Right Honourable John Major and his associates.

At a time of ongoing peace negotiations under the auspices of this Organization, it is all the more so difficult to understand that the Security Council is about to rcommend that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should not participate in the work of the United Nations General Assembly.

We therefore consider that the resolution is unfounded and that its adoption is unjust and harmful. The non-participation of Yugoslavia in the General Assembly would undoubtedly jeopardize the initiated peace process and encourage those who do not wish to give up the war option.

Nevertheless, Yugoslavia will endure. It is a reality and without its equal and active role, including the one in the United Nations, durable and just resolution of the Yugoslav drama can hardly be expected.